

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

# THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

GOVERMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

JAN 1 2 2006
University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

"For every thousand dollars judiciously

invested in a park, the dividends to the second

generation of citizens possessing it will be much larger

than to the first; the dividends to the third

much larger than to the second."

Frederick Law Olmsted
City Parks and the Improved Use of Metropolitan Spaces, 1880

Annual Report 1997-2000



It is with great pleasure that I present the first annual report for the Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP), an innovative community preservation program initiated by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in 1997.



"Under the leadership of Environmental Affairs

Secretary Bob Durand, the Commonwealth

continues to preserve, protect and restore the

Olmsted legacy in Massachusetts."

Expanding on the success of DEM's Olmsted Program, established in the early 1980s, the HLPGP provides matching grants to support critically needed planning, construction and maintenance projects for public historic landscapes, including town commons, cemeteries and the grounds of historic buildings.

I am proud to say that in the short time since this program was established, the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program has already had a visible and lasting impact on cherished public landscapes across the state. During the first three rounds (1997-2000), DEM has provided close to 2.5 million dollars in matching grants to support 68 different projects. Special initiatives have been launched to address the pressing needs of historic cemeteries and town commons in an additional 45 communities. Yet the demand continues to be great; funds were not available to support 133 more proposed projects, reflecting close to nine million dollars in unfunded grant requests.

The Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program is administered by the Department of Environmental Management's Office of Historic Resources, with oversight and guidance provided by a Statewide Advisory Committee composed of landscape preservation experts and advocates from universities, non-profits, government agencies and the private sector. Under the leadership of Environmental Affairs Secretary Bob Durand, the Commonwealth continues to preserve, protect and restore the Olmsted legacy in Massachusetts: the civic and public landscapes that contribute to the quality of life across the state. DEM, through the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program, stands in the forefront as a national leader in the historic landscape preservation movement.

The success of this program is a direct result of the vision and hard work of our municipal partners and their community volunteers. This unique relationship, the heart of the Grant Program, has been critical to its success. We look forward to continuing that partnership and preserving and revitalizing our most cherished historic landscapes.

Peter C. Webber

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI, GOVERNOR

JANE SWIFT, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
BOB DURAND, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PETER C. WEBBER, COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION

MARTIN SUUBERG, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (1997-2000)

SUSAN FRECHETTE, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (2000-PRESENT)

OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
PATRICE KISH, DIRECTOR

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

KATY LACY, PROGRAM MANAGER

GORDON MARSHALL, GRANT ADMINISTRATOR, 1997-1999

KRISTEN KITTS, GRANT ADMINISTRATOR, 2000-PRESENT

TIM ORWIG, PROGRAM INTERN 1999-2000

LOIS BREAULT, PROGRAM INTERN, 1998-1999





THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT'S OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, WITH OVERSIGHT AND

GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY A STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION EXPERTS

AND ADVOCATES FROM UNIVERSITIES, NON-PROFITS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

#### STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF DEM TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM. COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVE AS AN INFORMATIONAL AND ADVISORY RESOURCE TO PROGRAM STAFF, MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSULTANTS, WITH DUTIES INCLUDING THE REVIEW OF PROGRAM GUIDELINES, SELECTION CRITERIA AND INDIVIDUAL GRANT PROPOSALS. IN ADDITION, MEMBERS ARE CALLED UPON FROM TIME TO TIME TO SHARE THEIR PARTICULAR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AS NEEDED RELATIVE TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

MS. DEBBIE CARY Director Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Massachusetts Audubon Society/DEM Board Member 1997-present

Ms. Margaret Dyson President Historic Massachusetts Inc. 1999-present

DR. JULIUS GY. FABOS University of Massachusetts, Department of Landscape Architecture 1997-2000

Ms. ELSA FITZGERALD Assistant Director Massachusetts Historical Commission 1998-present

Ms. Betsy Shure Gross Special Assistant to the Secretary for Community Preservation Executive Office of Environmental Affairs 1997-present.

Ms. EDITH MAKRA Director of Urban Forestry Department of Environmental Management 2000-present

PROFESSOR JOHN MARTIN
University of Massachusetts
Department of Landscape Architecture
1997-present

Ms. JUDITH McDonough Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Massachusetts Historical Commission 1997-present

MS. LAUREN MEIER
Historical Landscape Architect
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
1997-present

DR. NORA MITCHELL
Director
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
National Park Service
1997-1999

MR. ERIC O'BRIEN Massachusetts Recreation Park Association 1997-present

Ms. Leslie Reed-EVANS Director
Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation
1997-1999

MR. PHILLIP RODBELL
Director of Urban Forestry
Department of Environmental Management
1997-2000

MR. TOM SKINNER
Director of Land Policy and Planning
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
1997-1998

Ms. Jennifer Jillson Soper Regional Planner Executive Office of Environmental Affairs 1998-present

MS. JUDITH TANKARD Landscape Historian Radcliffe Seminars, Landscape Design Program 1997-1998

Ms. LIZ VIZZA American Society of Landscape Architects Boston Society of Landscape Architects 1997-2000

MR. WES WARD Director for Land Conservation Trustees of Reservations 1997-2000



us in planning for future improvements.



### WHAT IS THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM?

With the support of long-time advocates of DEM's Olmsted Program, the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program was established in 1997 by an act of the Massachusetts State Legislature to provide Massachusetts cities and towns with matching grant funds and direct technical assistance to preserve significant historic landscapes.

Municipalities throughout Massachusetts are stewards of an impressively broad array of historic landscapes, including cemeteries, commons, parks, former estates, military sites, farmsteads and the grounds of public buildings. Whether formal or vernacular, these landscapes serve as the backdrop for each community's rich heritage and define the character of each city and town. However, many of these landscapes are over a century old, and suffer from deferred maintenance, inappropriate design decisions and simple wear and tear. Through matching grants, direct technical assistance and training and outreach, the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program provides municipalities throughout Massachusetts with practical steps for preserving and protecting significant public landscapes.

#### LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANTS

In the course of its first three grant rounds, the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program has provided 68 matching grants to cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The maximum grant award was \$50,000 per project per year, and municipalities were eligible for multi-year grants. Projects funded have ranged from emergency stabilization of a single historic tree to long-term master plans for entire historic landscapes. Through the evaluation process, only those projects that can demonstrate widespread support from and benefit for the community are funded. Indeed, because this is a matching grant program in which the municipality is required to provide up to 48% of the total project cost, the bulk of the proposals are characterized by a high level of commitment on the part of the community.

#### DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

On a nearly daily basis, program staff provide guidance and technical assistance to the public on many issues related to historic landscape preservation, ranging from the development of project scopes to the review of final products. Technical assistance also includes the development and implementation of special, one-time projects addressing critical issues identified through the Grant Program. Over the past year, the Program's technical assistance activities focused on the development of a unique Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative, providing preservation planning services for municipally owned cemeteries and burial grounds across the Commonwealth, as well as the developing and distributing general guidelines for historic cemetery preservation. Based on the success and cost effectiveness of the Cemetery Program, the HLPG Program has launched a similar project for 2000 that focuses on municipal commons, greens and town parks.

#### TRAINING AND OUTREACH

Program training efforts each year range from grantwriting workshops, targeting distinct regions of the state, to statewide conferences and workshops. In April 1999, DEM, with the National Park Service's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, hosted a landscape forum in Marlborough. Attended by more than 100 individuals, including staff, volunteers and other landscape stewards, the forum provided a broad overview of the principles and practices of historic landscape preservation, with a special focus on municipally owned properties. This was followed in May 2000 by a workshop on historic cemetery preservation held at Clark University with a site visit to Hope Cemetery in Worcester, which was attended by more than 150 cemetery advocates. In addition to conferences and training, Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program staff respond to requests to appear at public meetings, conferences and special site visits throughout the year.

The program's training and outreach efforts benefit greatly from productive partnerships with other preservation organizations, including the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Historic Massachusetts, Inc. and the National Park Service.

#### PROGRAM GOALS

The Program's aim is to preserve the full spectrum of historic landscapes and to promote awareness of their significant contribution to our quality of life. Through the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program, DEM aims to accomplish the following goals:

Encourage the preservation of historic landscapes, their individual features and historic site character

Provide a framework for the long-term preservation of historic landscapes that encourages foresight in balancing ongoing programmatic needs with long-term resource protection

Promote community participation, advocacy and stewardship of Massachusetts' historic landscapes through the establishment of friends groups and other innovative methods

Encourage appropriate and cost-effective solutions for the rehabilitation and efficient maintenance of historic landscapes

Develop thoughtful solutions for addressing inconsistencies in the original design intent of historic landscapes

Encourage policies and procedures for protecting historic landscapes and abutting lands critical to their character

Provide opportunities for training and educational programs related to landscape preservation

Encourage communities to be creative in seeking additional and ongoing funding sources to support landscape preservation efforts

#### PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications for funding are reviewed by an evaluation subcommittee drawn from our Statewide Advisory Committee. Proposals are evaluated based on the overall quality and responsiveness of the application to the following criteria:

Demonstrated cultural or historical significance of the landscape, with preference given to those that are already listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places

Appropriateness of proposed scope of work and compatibility with the site's historic character and current planning documents

Demonstrated commitment by the municipality to preserve and protect its historic resources, including its historic parks and landscapes

Public benefit and public access

Community support and public investment

Potential threat to site

Long-term preservation maintenance commitment for the proposed landscape

Ability to administer grant-funded project within budget and on schedule

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Equitable regional distribution of grant funds

## "The Common remains the crossroads of the community and as such, has becomes the town's trademark."

#### THE CITY AND TOWN COMMONS PRESERVATION 2000 INITIATIVE

In its first three rounds, the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program had received approximately 35 proposals requesting funds for critically needed preservation, maintenance and stabilization work for historic city and town commons, greens, squares and formal parks, reflecting more than \$1.5 million in grant requests. However, most applicants had not done sufficient planning to establish priorities, assess costs, or justify proposed construction. This initiative provides cities and towns with training, technical assistance and planning services aimed at long-term preservation of these landscapes, with an emphasis on tree care.

The City and Town Commons Preservation 2000 Initiative directly addresses this lack of information by providing easily accessible technical assistance and planning services for communities

throughout the Commonwealth. Project components include:

PRESERVATION PLANNING SERVICES for 23 participating municipalities, including historical overviews, condition assessments and management and preservation recommendations.

FIELD-BASED TRAINING WORKSHOPS on the preservation, maintenance and management of historic municipal commons, greens, squares and formal town parks.

PRESERVATION GUIDELINES created by revising and updating DEM's 1988 publication Common Sense: A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO CREATING AND RESTORING COMMONS AND SQUARES, with an emphasis on preserving and rehabilitating existing sites.

Twenty-three communities are participating in this initiative: Ashby, Brimfield, Cambridge, Douglas, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Leominster, Lexington, Ludlow, Lunenburg, North Andover, Northfield, Northbridge, Norton, Salem, Springfield, Sturbridge, Taunton, Wareham, Westfield and Whitman.



# "Almost all families that have ever resided in this town have left their dear ones in these burial grounds."

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC CEMETERY PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

In its first two grant rounds, the Program received many proposals addressing critical preservation and stabilization needs at historic cemeteries and burial grounds. Most of these proposals came from smaller towns, where cemeteries may be the most significant or only historic landscape owned by the municipality. In response to this need, the Department of Environmental Management set aside funds from the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program to initiate a year-long Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative.

Specific qomponents of this project included:

Surveying and evaluating the historic cemeteries in each of the twenty participating municipalities

Preparing site-specific preservation plans for each municipality

Presenting a day-long training workshop on historic cemetery preservation and management

Publishing Preservation Guidelines to aid the planning, management and maintenance of historic cemeteries across the Commonwealth

Historic cemeteries present unique preservation challenges, including damaged and vandalized headstones, deteriorated walks and enclosures and aging and hazardous trees. Very few cemeteries have had condition assessments, inventories, master plans or preservation maintenance plans to provide guidance on their management or care. There is very little easily accessible written information focusing on the care of historic cemetery landscapes and, in particular, the management of older trees within these cemeteries. For those cemeteries that have done adequate preservation planning work, few have been listed or even determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This precludes them from receiving construction funds from programs such as DEM's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program, or Massachusetts Historical Commission's Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF). This project directly addressed these needs.

Twenty communities participated in this initiative: Braintree, Brimfield, Brookline, Danvers, Douglas, East Bridgewater, Everett, Littleton, Mashpee, Nahant, Newton, Northampton, Peabody, Rockport, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sunderland, Tisbury and Worthington.

The Massachusetts Historic Cemetery Preservation Initiative was the recipient of a Merit Award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects and an Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



IN MEMORIAM

HARRISON PARKER
FORMER CHAIR
HAWLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

We are honored to have worked with Harrison Parker, who served as the local project manager for the Hawley Cemetery Project during Rounds I and II of the Grant Program.

The Hawley Cemetery Project focused on inventory, maintenance and stabilization at three inactive historic cemeteries that had fallen into diśrepair. Through a combination of thrift, ingenuity and a contagious belief in volunteerism, Harrison leveraged a relatively small grant into a much more significant effort. galvanizing local residents and arranging for the assistance of Americorps volunteers to complete the project.

Following his retirement from the federal government, Harrison assumed the role of Hawley's premier civic activist, serving his community as selectman, assessor, chairman of the Historical Commission, as well as secretary of the Planning Board and Finance Committee. He had been president and long-time treasurer of the Sons and Daughters of Hawley, treasurer of Save the Hills. Inc. and a charter member and secretary of the Deerfield River Watershed Association. For many years he was the editor of "The Edge of Hawley." He wrote and published the first volume of his History of Hawley in 1992.

At the heart of the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program are our invaluable partners in the field, including municipal staff, volunteers and community leaders, who deserve full credit for conceiving these projects and carrying them out. Through fundraising, trash pick-up, outreach, community organizing and sheer persistence, our municipal partners have proven themselves to be the most dedicated of landscape stewards, and should be recognized as priceless assets to their communities. This unique partnership, the roots of the landscape grant program, has been critical to its success.



MARJORIE M<sup>C</sup>GINNIS serves as town coordinator for the two rural towns of Wendell and New Salem. Over the course of two years, Marjorie skillfully managed a series of dramatic changes to the Wendell Town Common. These included the reclamation of lost green space caused by ever-expanding intersections and informal parking, the installation of new perimeter roads and curbs and new tree planting. Throughout the project Marjorie devised creative solutions to a variety of inevitable snags. She also managed to keep everyone in this diverse and independent-spirited community informed and enthusiastic about the project from start to finish.



JENNIFER MUNSON is an artist, designer and small business owner in Groveland, a small town of 6,000 located across from Haverhill on the Merrimac River. The two-lane bridge that connects Haverhill to Groveland is scheduled to be torn down and replaced by a new, larger bridge. The resultant increase in traffic flow will potentially threaten the integrity of the linear Elm Park, which forms the core of Groveland's small downtown. The Elm Park Preservation Project, funded through the HLPGP in 1999 and 2000, was intended to evaluate the impact of the new bridge and altered traffic flow, and to create a plan that would protect the integrity of the town center.

The driving force behind the Elm Park Preservation Project is community activist Jennifer Munson. After authoring the town's original grant application, Jennifer has successfully managed the project for the past two years — entirely on a volunteer basis. More importantly, Jennifer worked tirelessly to build support for the preservation of Elm Park through meetings with community members and state and local officials, visits to local schools and the development of promotional material, including a brochure, website and video describing the project.



# both as a wild and rugged open space within a densely populated area, and as the protective buffer for the city."

"The twenty-two-lundred-acre reservation is a valuable resource

ROUND ONE

1998

MUNICIPALITY		PROJECT	GRANT AWARD
Arlington		Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden Restoration	\$37,800
Boston		Pinebank Restoration-Jamaica Pond	\$100,000
Brockton		Preservation Planning for D.W. Field Park	\$20,000
Brookline		Restoration of Allerton Overlook	\$100,000
Ćhelsea		Garden Cemetery Preservation Plan	\$30,000
Easton		Restoration of Olmsted Rockery	\$64,000
Falmouth		Village Green Fence Replacement	\$27,000
Hawley		Town Cemetery Survey	\$1,800
Lee		Rehabilitation of Lee Town Common	\$100,000
Lowell		Tyler Park Preservation Plan	\$15,000
Marlborough		Old Common Site Preservation Plan	\$20,000
Marshfield		Thomas-Webster Estate Preservation Plan	\$25,000
Melrose		Preservation of Beebe Estate Landscape	\$28,700
Newburyport		Bartlet Mall Master Plan	\$17,400
Orange		Rehabilitation of Memorial Park	\$25,000
Quincy	- (	Mount Wollaston Cemetery Tree Replacement	\$50,000
Wendell		Wendell Town Common Restoration	\$50,000
Westfield		Grandmothers' Garden Restoration Plan	\$6,000

Total \$717,700

#### ROUND TWO

1999

MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT	GRANT AWA
Amherst	West Cemetery Preservation Planning Project	\$20,000
Arlington	Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden Restoration	\$49,331
Barre	Rehabilitation Plan for the Barre Common Area	\$37,800
Boston	Preservation Plan for Evergreen, Mount Hope,	
	and Fairview Cemeteries	\$46,500
Brookline	Hall's Pond Restoration	\$99,228
Charlemont	Research/Accessibility StudyFairground Grandstand	\$5,000
Chelsea	Rehabilitation of Winnisimmet Park in Chelsea Square	\$47,950
Concord	Melvin Memorial Restoration Plan, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery	\$13,600
Fairhaven	Fort Phoenix Accessibility Study and Plan	\$10,000
Groveland	Elm Park Determination of Eligibility and Preservation Plan	\$12,800
Hadley	Preservation of Hadley's Historic Cemeteries	\$28,000
Hawley	Town Cemetery Restoration, Phase II	\$1,680
Holyoke	Wistariahurst Landscape Preservation Plan	\$24,500
Lowell	Tyler Park Rehabilitation	\$50,000
	4	continued

#### ROUND TWO 1999

Lynn	Roadway Restoration, Lynn Woods Reservation	\$10,000
Marblehead	Fort Sewall Preservation Plan	\$25,550
Marlborough	Rehabilitation of Old Common Site	\$100,000
Medfield	Dwight Derby House Cultural Landscape Report	\$8,960
Millville	Preservation Plan for Longfellow Municipal Center	\$20,400
New Bedford	Buttonwood Park Maintenance Area Rehabilitation Plan	\$40,000
New Bedford	Design Development for Clasky Park	\$30,000
Newton	Houghton Garden Rehabilitation	\$27,000
North Adams	Hillside Cemetery Preservation Plan	\$20,000
Springfield	Van Horn Park Preservation Plan	\$35,000
Townsend	Rehabilitation of the Townsend Town Common	\$70,000
Waltham	Robert Treat Paine Estate Landscape Restoration	\$30,000
Ware	Grenville Park Historic Vista Restoration	\$10,500
Wendell	Rehabilitation of Wendell Town Common	\$34,650

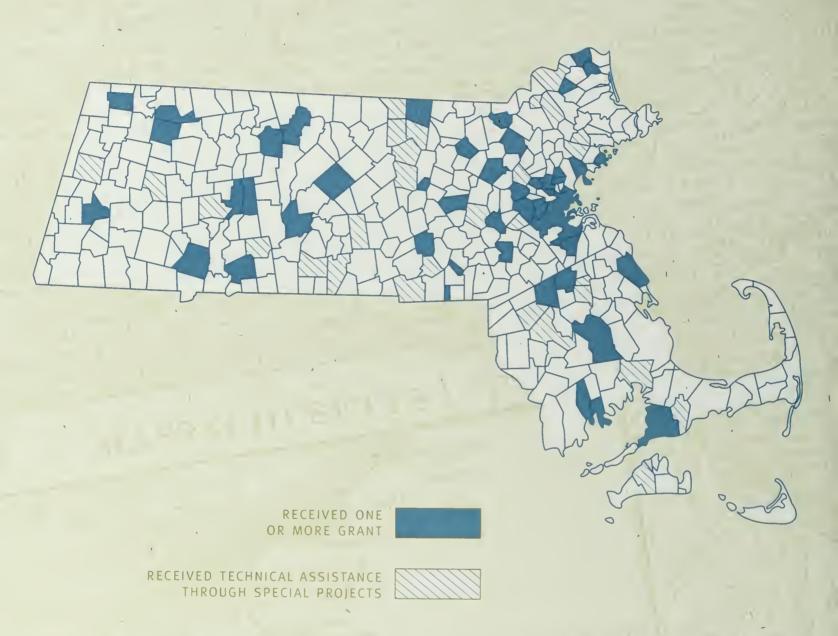
Total \$908,449

#### ROUND THREE

#### 2000

MUNICIPALITY	Project	GRANT AWARD
Amesbury	Woodsom Farm Preservation Plan	\$25,000
Amherst	West Cemetery Preservation Project	\$100,000
Barre	Survey of the Barre Common Area	\$15,000
Billerica	Preservation of Talbot Oval	\$10,000
Boston	Granary Burying Ground: Rehabilitation of Path System	\$43,000
Braintree	Elm Street Cemetery National Register Nomination	\$3,000
Brookline	Riverway Park: Assessment and Preservation Plan	\$25,000
Clinton	Central Park: Reconstruction of Foster Fountain	\$30,000
Easton	Restoration of Olmsted's Rockery	\$100,000
Falmouth	Emerald Farm: Brochure and Interpretive Material	\$16,000
Grafton	Grafton Common Tree Survey and Planting	\$20,000
Hopedale	Preservation Plan for Bancroft Library Garden	\$12,000
Littleton	Restoration of Old Burying Ground	\$42,000
Lynn	Lynn Woods Historic Roadway Restoration	\$49,700
Medford	Landscape Plan for Brooks Estate, Historic Core	\$10,000
Middleborough	Preservation Plan for Oliver Mill Park	\$10,000
Natick	John Eliot Historic District: Landscape Preservation Plan	\$11,200
New Bedford	Clasky Common Park Restoration	\$100,000
North Adams	Hillside Cemetery Restoration	\$100,000
Quincy	Merrymount Park Rehabilitation	\$100,000
Somerville	Preservation Plan for Nathan Tufts Park	\$20,000
Waltham	Robert Treat Paine Estate Landscape Preservation	\$25,500
	terpes .	

Total \$817,400



As a state grant program, one of our most important goals is an equitable regional distribution of funds. The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program has been able to serve a diverse cross section of municipalities, providing grants or direct technical assistance to more than 30% of the cities and towns across the Commonwealth since 1997.

